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Letter to George Chase

Dudley Chase

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Dear George,

Washington June 3^d 1847

K. Ch. 070103

At the same time yours of 30. ult. was rec^d, there came one also from your Hon^r Father, in which he gave me more promising accounts of the health of his family, than, judging from the extract you sent me, I could have expected. I rejoice very much that they have all recovered; and sincerely hope, that their yet remaining fears, as to the nature of Cyrus' com. plaint, may prove to be without foundation. I understand also that Phileas is at home, having anticipated his vacation a few days. You will probably soon see him, and I am sure you will fail to remind him of me & of the great affection I bear him.

As your letter did not get to my hand till this morning 5½ P.M., and as the mail will be closed this evening at 6, it is not probable you will receive this till you are in Hartford. Indeed, I believe, I shall address it to you at that place.

I am really embarrassed, how or in what manner to answer your letter, as to its main point - your N.W. project. Really, George, judging by the zeal & enthusiasm you express, if I were to set off this morning with an intention to interrupting our course at any given point, I should aim at least as far west as Detroit. Why, you are already on your journey! armed, equipped & commisioned!! no impediment in the way! every obstacle overcome! and the chances 50 to one in your favor!!

Now George, in coolness consider, and understand the affair, or case as it really is - and, I trust you do not prepare for yourself

a disappointment. It is not probable that any plan
of the kind will be adopted at all. It is not probable that
the plan alluded to in a former letter, which was not
designed for the purpose, but only squeezed in, edge ways,
for consideration merely, will finally ^{be} approved of. Nor
is it probable that any birth in the scope of that plan,
would be suitable for you. And finally it is not prob-
-able that you could obtain the approbation of your
Parents to go at all. So I should advise you to dismiss
all your anxiety and zeal on the subject, and demolish
all your air-built castles. Then should any arrange-
-ment be made that would suit all around, why
then indeed you might be ready to go if you please,
and do what good you can for your country,
and acquire what honor you can for yourself.

Rest assured that I feel every possible desire and
anxiety to promote your real interest, & further your
wishes as to this favorite object of yours. But, I must
confess I feel some reluctance as to the modus operandi.
Had the President been further aided by laws to have appointed
some learned & scientific Man, with a suite of well
informed gentlemen, to proceed in company of com-
-missioners, for the purpose of exploring the Natural
history of those regions of our Country, hitherto un-
known, I should have rejoiced to have you of the
number, that you might thereby have gratified your
laudable desire to contribute to the science of the expedition.
But such is not the case; and moreover there seems to
be an unwillingness in Congress to go ^{to} that expense, or several
with whom I have conversed, think that an arrangement
calculated to effect the object completely, would only be
clogg'd & encompur'd by the campanion, & not in the least

advanced by it. However, Genl. Porter, and the various persons
that will accompany him, will probably employ two
boats or vessels with suitable crews to work them, and
the whole will make up such a number as to require
a Surgeon to attend on them. Now there are several
Hospital Surgeons in our military establishments,
who can, "in the peaceful times of peace" be spared with
propriety, and without any additional expense, on
that business. Two Persons as Steward and Ward-Master
drawing pay as I have before mentioned, and not
trusting part of the Hospital Surgeons family, may it be
employed. Their duty will be little or nothing, and
they can have time & opportunity to make such
observations and pursue such researches as they please.
I have conversed with the Surgeon who will undertake
the business, and who is very much taken up with the
project, and promises all these facilities at command.
Whether this plan will be carried into effect or not, I do
not know. It certainly does not suit my fancy; yet should
it go into operation, it may be that advisable that you should
avoid yourself of it, rather than not to embark at all. You
can think of it & consult with your Parents, saying nothing
to others on the subject. I hope you will reject the thing
altogether, and make yourself easy & contented with
your old scheme of going to Randolph & slipping into
the study of the Law. I repeat again, you must not
rely on your Dr. W. scheme. — I have rec'd letters from
home, in which your Aunt Olive apologized for not having
answered your letters, and promises to reform. She desires
to be most kindly remembered to you.

Write to me, George, and tell me all about it.

Most affectionately yours, forever

Dwight Cohen

Mr. George Chase

Al. H. H. H.

Jan. 3. 1817. Washington.
Uncle Dudley.

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